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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/757,660	01/14/2004	Markus Allemann	0212.66402	4465

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CHICAGO, IL 60606

EXAMINER

GATES, ERIC ANDREW

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3722

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/22/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

58

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/757,660	Applicant(s) ALLEMANN ET AL.	
	Examiner Eric A. Gates	Art Unit 3722	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 December 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.
- 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to Applicant's amendment filed on 4 December 2006.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1 and 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Crutchfield (U.S. Patent 4,866,319).
4. Regarding claim 1, Crutchfield discloses a control mechanism 28/66/76 for a rotary hand tool 10 having a generally cylindrical housing 12 in which a drive motor 26 is located, the housing having a generally tapered nose portion 14 at an end from which a motor output shaft 24 extends (see figure 2, shaft 24 extends (primary definition "to stretch out", per Oxford online dictionary) from motor 26 in the nose portion) and a grip portion 14 around which an operator can wrap a hand during operation of the tool and within which portion the motor is housed, said control mechanism 28/66/74 being a part of the tool and located substantially within the housing thereof and comprising: an electrical control circuit 74 contained entirely within said housing, said circuit controlling the application of power to and the operation of the motor, including supplying current to

Art Unit: 3722

the motor; and a light touch switch 28 having at least a first position (not pushed) and a second position (pushed) (see column 4, lines 46-68) coupled to said electrical control circuit (by wires, see column 5, lines 12-19) for selectively enabling or disabling said control circuit to turn the motor on and off, wherein said motor current does not flow through said switch 28; wherein said switch 28 is disposed on the tapered nose portion 14 of the rotary hand tool such that an operator can actuate said switch without altering the operator's grip on the tool.

5. Regarding claim 2, Crutchfield discloses wherein said switch 28 is configured to be generally rectangular (exterior portion 30 as viewed from above in figure 1).

6. Regarding claim 3, Crutchfield discloses wherein said switch 28 has a predetermined thickness (it is inherent that the switch would be made with a predetermined thickness)

7. Regarding claim 4, Crutchfield discloses wherein said first position disables said electrical control circuit and said second position enables said electrical control circuit (see column 3, lines 41-48).

8. Regarding claim 5, Crutchfield discloses wherein the tapered nose portion on which said switch 28 is disposed generally corresponds to a location of the operator's index finger when grasping the tool (see figure 1).

9. Claims 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Crutchfield (U.S. Patent 5,712,543).

Art Unit: 3722

10. Regarding claim 10, Crutchfield discloses an apparatus 28 for selectively controlling power applied to and the operation of the motor 26 of a rotary hand tool 10 having a generally cylindrical housing 12 that includes a generally tapered nose portion 14 that has a gradually reduced circumference toward an end from which an output shaft 24 extends (see figure 2, shaft extends (primary definition "to stretch out", per Oxford online dictionary), and a grip portion 14 around which an operator wraps a hand during operation of the tool, said apparatus comprising: electrical control circuitry 28/66/74 for controlling power, including motor current that is applied to the motor, said electrical circuitry being a part of the tool and located entirely within the housing; a switch 28 having a switch button 30 and containing at least a pair of switch contacts 80/86 that are selectively opened and closed responsive to actuation of said switch button, said switch being operatively connected to said control circuitry to control the operation of the motor (by wires, see column 5, lines 12-19), including the application of motor current to the motor, said switch 28 being configured so that said motor current does not pass through the switch contacts during operation of the motor, said switch 28 being a part of the tool 10 and located substantially within the tapered nose portion 14 thereof; and a cavity (see figure 2) disposed in the nose portion of the tool that is configured to receive at least a portion of said switch 28 and permit actuation of said switch button 30.

11. Regarding claim 12, Crutchfield discloses that the outer surface of said switch button 30 is generally coextensive with the outer surface of said nose portion 14 (see figure 1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

13. Claims 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crutchfield in view of Von Hollen (U.S. Patent 3,640,635).

14. Regarding claim 6, Crutchfield discloses the invention substantially as claimed, except Crutchfield does not disclose a layer of flexible grip material surrounding at least a portion of the nose portion.

Von Hollen teaches the use of a layer of rubber 11 surrounding the portion of the nose portion in which a switch 55-49 is disposed, abutting said switch when the flexible material is compressed, for the purpose of providing a yielding surface in the nose portion of the tool. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the tool of Crutchfield with the flexible grip material of Von Hollen in order to have a tool with a more comfortable grip.

15. Regarding claims 7-9, the modified invention of Crutchfield discloses the invention substantially as claimed.

Art Unit: 3722

16. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crutchfield in view of Von Hollen (U.S. Patent 3,640,635).

17. Regarding claim 11, Crutchfield discloses the invention substantially as claimed, except Crutchfield does not disclose a layer of grip material surrounding at least a portion of the grip portion in which said switch is located.

Von Hollen teaches the use of a layer of rubber 11 surrounding the portion of the nose portion in which a switch 55-49 is disposed, abutting said switch when the flexible material is compressed, for the purpose of providing a yielding surface in the grip portion of the tool. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the tool of Crutchfield with the flexible grip material of Von Hollen in order to have a tool with a more comfortable grip.

Response to Arguments

18. Applicant's arguments concerning the addition of new matter by the previous amendment are persuasive, and therefore the requirement to remove this subject matter is rescinded.

19. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

20. For the reasons as set forth above, the rejections are maintained.

Conclusion

21. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric A. Gates whose telephone number is 571-272-5498. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:45-6:15.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Monica Carter can be reached on 571-272-4475. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3722

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



EAG

16 February 2007



MONICA CARTER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER